

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

The claims have been amended to make minor grammatical improvements and/or to correct minor antecedent basis problems so as to put the claims in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent. In particular, it is noted that all of the informalities pointed out by the Examiner have been corrected. And it is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims are not related to patentability, and do not narrow the scope of the claims either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1, 4-11 and 16-46 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,481,103 ("Wang"), and claims 2, 3 and 12-15 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Wang and USP 5,396,054 ("Krichever et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed.

According to the claimed present invention, a reading apparatus (and a recording medium for a reading apparatus) are provided which output information with randomness when an optically readable code such as a bar code or a dot code is read. As variously recited in the sub-claims, the randomness is provided according to various detected parameters.

It is respectfully pointed out, moreover, that the claimed present invention has been achieved to deal with the fact that even if the same code is printed on several media of the same type, in reality, it is impossible for them to have the same printing quality. If such variations are detected as parameters, it is possible to cause different information to be output when the code is read for each of the media even if the media are of the same type and the same code is printed on them.

Similarly, the claimed present invention has been achieved to deal with the fact that even if there is only one medium, if the code is manually scanned, for example, the scanning speed and the scanning direction depends on the particular operator of the scanner. And even if it is the same operator performing a plurality of scanning operations, the scanning speed may vary each time. Therefore, the differences between operators or the variations of one operator may be detected as different parameters, thereby causing different information to be output even if there is only one code.

According to the claimed present invention, the information output from reading a code is not uniquely defined so that the claimed present invention can provide a surprise to the operator for performing a code reading operation. As a result, a more enjoyable and exciting experience for the operator is achieved. And therefore, the claimed present invention provides a great potential for applicability to entertainment systems such as game machines and/or to educational equipment.

Wang discloses that a sequence of data encoded in packets is parceled into a number of data units, and that each packet (code) is allowed to be located at random by providing each packet with an address portion identifying the position of the data unit relative to the original sequence of data and a data portion representative of information as to the total number of packets. That is, in the system of Wang, randomly located packets are scanned, sorted according to their addresses, and when the number of packets assembled equals the total number of packets, the original sequence of data is output.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the system of Wang only has the function of outputting an original sequence of data, just like a conventional coding and reading apparatus. In this connection, it is noted that a coding and reading apparatus is expected to reproduce and output original data without error, and information output from reading a code is required to be

uniquely defined. Thus, naturally, to meet such a requirement, the invention disclosed in Wang is designed to output the same information no matter how the codes are located.

It is respectfully submitted that the randomness of the locations of the codes in Wang is entirely different from the randomness of the information outputs. And it is respectfully submitted that Wang does not at all disclose, teach or even remotely suggest outputting information with randomness, as according to the claimed present invention.

Krichever et al, moreover, has merely been cited for the disclosure of a hand-held code reading apparatus. And it is respectfully submitted that this reference also fails to disclose, teach or suggest outputting information with randomness, as according to the claimed present invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed present invention patentably distinguishes over Wang and Krichever et al, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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